

## *A message from the Director . . . .*

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of our new Parent Newsletter from Community Action Head Start. The Leadership Team and I will be writing this newsletter 3 times per program year to provide you with information about the Head Start program and your role as a parent. We hope you enjoy this information and help us keep it going. This is for you...the 1<sup>st</sup> and most important Teacher of your children!

This first issue is all about **Head Start School Readiness**. Since Head Start began in 1965 the program has always focused on helping children from low-income families be ready to enter school. However, within the past few years this has become even more important. The Office of Head Start says this about what school readiness is: **“Head Start views school readiness as children possessing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life.”** There is a new emphasis being placed on assuring that this is happening for all children in all Head Start programs. This also means there are some new things we have to do and record about how the children are doing. Your role in helping us do this is more important than ever! There are 3 areas where we need your help in the next few months. All of these are very important steps in helping your child be ready for school and get the most out of the Head Start Program.

**1) ATTENDANCE-** It is very important that your child attend the program regularly. This is a basic for school-readiness. If/when your child is not present they cannot learn what they need to be ready for school! The Office of Head Start expects individual children that attend center-based program to be present at least 85% of the time. This is why Family Advocates or Primary Caregivers call you when your child is absent. As a program we are expected to increase our overall attendance this year. The Office of Head Start wants our attendance higher because they know that if children are not present they are missing the opportunities of the classroom experiences. Also, those in the Home-based option are expected to have at least 85% of the visits over a year for the same reasons. As parents, it is your job to make sure your child attends regularly. We know that children get sick and there are guidelines for when a child should stay home due to illness. Except for child illness we are asking you to do everything possible to send your child to the program daily. This is also a good preparation for kindergarten. Children are expected to be in school regularly. Please help us increase your child’s opportunities to learn and our program goal of increasing our attendance.

**2) PARTNER WITH STAFF-**In order to help your child learn all they can we need your help. Staff need your ideas about how your child is learning and growing at home. They need you to help re-set goals for your child for the rest of the year. You are the one who knows your child best. When staff call you on the phone, come for home-visits or ask you to send information back to them, please do all you can to respond. We know you are all busy but we can’t do the best for your child without you helping us. Remember, you are always welcome in the classrooms/sites.

**3) WORK WITH YOUR CHILD-** Since you are the 1<sup>st</sup> and most important Teacher of your child, you also can be helping him/her learn every day at home. As a part of our school-readiness goals, we will be giving you more ideas of what you can do at home to work with your child. This may be in the classroom newsletter, on a separate piece of paper, or discussed during a home-visit. Please always make sure and check back-packs and pockets for information sent home. Not only will this help your child but we can use your hours for in-kind.

If you help us in the above 3 ways it will be good for your child, you and the program😊! I am certain we can do this together! For more information about Head Start School Readiness visit the ECLKC website. This is the official Head Start website and has lots of good information for parents.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please know that we want your thoughts and ideas. Your Parent Group meetings and Policy Council Representatives are ways for you to give your input to the program. You may also contact any of the staff or the Managers with any ideas or concerns you have. Any Manager or I can be reached at (585)589-5683. I can also be reached at [bmalakie@caoginc.org](mailto:bmalakie@caoginc.org) . Thank you for helping us with your child's school readiness and with the overall program goals.

Bonnie Malakie  
Director of Children & Youth Services





## **“Parents Are Their Child’s First Teacher”**

“Parents are their child’s first teacher”. That phrase is repeated often, but here at Head Start we stand on those words. At Head Start we know that you are not only your child’s first teacher, but you the parent are an equal partner with Head Start at all levels of the program.

Our number one priority is the same as yours – get our children ready for their next learning experience whether that experience involves a transition from the child’s home to Early Head Start, or from Head Start to kindergarten, we are all working together to make the children’s transition successful.

Thank you for volunteering in your child’s classroom - you are not only a role model for your child, but you are willing to share the gift of time with your child’s classmates!

If your time in the classroom has been rewarding to you, please consider the role of a Classroom Substitute. It is another avenue available to you to give support to the classroom staff in their effort to provide meaningful learning experiences to the children.

Steps to become a Classroom Substitute:

- Complete application
- Complete interview process
- Approval by Head Start Policy Council
- Complete all necessary paperwork relating to Day Care Regulations
- Complete Substitute Orientation & Training

Congratulations to Head Start parents, Sandra Freeman and Jackie Hilobuk who recently completed the Substitute Classroom training! They now work at the Medina Center.

Thank you for adding Head Start to the foundation that you have formed for your child.

Freddie K. Stewart- Training & Development Manager



## **SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT**

*Contributed by Pam Wadhams, ECED Manager*

Research shows that one of the best predictors of later reading (and school) success is a well-developed spoken vocabulary. Here are some ideas to get the conversation with your child going:



***Make Time to Talk*** (Adapted from *Language Building Tips from the National Institute for Literacy*):

**M** - Mealtimes can be good times to talk with your child.

**A** - Ask questions that encourage your child to think – questions involving predicting things that may happen, using imagination, explaining why things happen in a certain way.

**K** - Kneel or squat to be able to have good eye contact with your child.

**E** - Extend your conversation with your child. Conversations should go back and forth with each person responding to the other speaker at least a few times.

**T** - Tell stories to your child and ask them to tell stories to you.

**I** - Involve all of your family in group conversations every day. Talk with your family about what they are doing, ask your child about their play.

**M** - Make connections between books you & your child have read, recent family activities & your child's play to help build their understanding of word meanings.

**E** - Expand on your child's language by repeating it with extensions (adding descriptive words), adding to or building on your child's ideas.

**T** - Two-way conversations are best. Let your child talk at least half the talking.

**O** - One or more conversations with your child every day should be a goal.

**T** - Texts like books, posters, newspapers & magazines provide things to talk about with your child. Read them together, asking questions & discussing them as you go.

**A** - Act out stories with your child, re-using words from a book you read aloud with him/her. Encourage your child to retell the story with puppets, toys & in their art.

**L** - Language should include rich, varied words that you want your child to learn to understand & use.

**K** - Keep the conversations going through questions & comments.



*from* Laura Harvey, Health/Nutrition Manager

Free Immunization Clinics are available for children 18 years of age and younger at the Orleans and Genesee County Public Health Departments.

### **Orleans County Public Health Department:**

Walk- in Clinic located at: 14012 Route 31 West in Albion, New York.

Time: 8-10 am and 3-5 pm

Dates: March 6<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Children must be accompanied by a parent or “legal” guardian, Please call 589-3278 with questions.

### **Genesee County Public Health Department:**

Located at: 3837 West Main Street Road in Batavia, New York.

Appointment necessary, please call 344-2580, extension 5000. Ask about what things you will need to bring.

Time: 2-4 pm

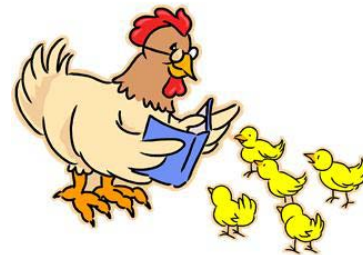
Dates: February 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup>, March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup>, and May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Children must be accompanied by a parent or “legal” guardian.

# MAKE A WELL CHILD FOLDER- “All About Me”

One of the most important things we can do for our children is to keep them on a regular routine for well child checks with the “ medical home” you choose for them. What does this mean? Your child should be seen for a health check-up at the following ages:

New born	1 year-12 months
1 month	15 months
2 months	18 months
4 months	24 months
6 months	3 years
9 months	4 years



Throughout these checkups you and the Health Care Provider should discuss all areas of growth and development that are occurring. There will be specific screenings and immunizations that are required at most of these visits. **THIS IS YOUR TIME** to share all of your concerns and ask questions that you may have about your child. The Health Care Provider will give you information and answer any questions you may have, based upon things that you have observed your child doing, or the symptoms they have. I recommend that you write down your questions and write down the answers given to you. Sometimes the Health Care Provider will give you a written summary of your visit and this is an excellent way to remember what happened at each visit.

Start an “All About Me” folder when your child is born; decorate it, and begin to place all important information in this folder. You can place many different items in this folder, including all important medical information. Continue this for your child as they transition into the next school experience which for many, will be kindergarten. This folder can be started at any age, and the folder will and can be very helpful to you in the future, especially when you need to look back at the physical exams, health checkups and immunization records. Be creative and place notes in the folder about illnesses your child may have had along the way. It really helps when you are asked if they have had specific illnesses or symptoms and at what age this occurred.

Place fun things in the folder too! Favorite foods, books, animals etc. can be included in the folder as well as pictures. You will be surprised how much enjoyment your child gets when you sit down and go through this together in the future, not to mention that all your important information is in one place!

Laura Harvey-Health/Nutrition Manager

## Breakfast every morning

### Start every day with breakfast.

Breakfast helps boost you  
and your child's energy all day long  
– busy moms need energy!

You and your child will feel better.

Develop an appetite  
for breakfast every day...

- ♥ Peanut butter on whole wheat toast, topped with banana slices.
- ♥ Bowl of breakfast cereal or oatmeal with milk. Top with sliced fruit – bananas, strawberries, blueberries.
- ♥ Flavored yogurt with whole grain breakfast cereal.
- ♥ Pancakes or waffles topped with applesauce, flavored yogurt or warm fruit.
- ♥ Ham and cheese quesadilla.
- ♥ Peanut butter spread on a whole wheat tortilla. Top with banana or strawberry slices. Roll up and eat.
- ♥ Warm brown rice topped with yogurt.

Any healthy food  
can be a breakfast food



### Egg burritos

Roll up scrambled eggs and a sprinkle of cheddar cheese in a whole wheat tortilla.

### Egg Sandwich

Top whole wheat toast with a fried egg and slice of ham.

### Scrambled Eggs

Serve scrambled eggs with whole wheat toast. Add chopped ham or smoked turkey to scrambled eggs.

Try something fun – serve scrambled eggs in a coffee cup and eat with a spoon.

### Peel and Eat Eggs

Peel a hard cooked egg and serve with whole wheat toast.



### Skip the Sweet Foods at Breakfast

Sugary foods like donuts will make your child's energy drop fast during the morning – He will feel cranky and tired.

## Make it small and fun!

### Mini Omelet

- 1 Crack and beat one raw egg in a bowl.
- 2 Heat oil in skillet over medium heat.
- 3 Add egg to skillet to create a round omelet. Cook for ½ minute on each side.
- 4 Top with your favorite toppings – chopped ham or cooked chicken, shredded cheese and cooked veggies.
- 5 Fold omelet into half circle and serve.

### Mini Pancakes

- 1 Heat oil in skillet.
- 2 Pour pancake batter into skillet, creating small pancakes.
- 3 Flip pancakes and cook on both side.



### Mini Muffins

Use a baking tin with small muffin holes to make blueberry or apple muffins.

### Mini Potato

- 1 Bake a tiny potato in the microwave.
- 2 Top with scrambled egg, chopped ham or turkey or cooked veggies.



### Eat breakfast with your children

- 1 Don't like to eat breakfast? Start with a small breakfast. Your child will copy what you do, not what you say.
- 2 Breakfast does not have to be fancy – whole wheat toast and juice can be a quick breakfast for your family.
- 3 Eat something within an hour after getting up. You and your child need energy after sleeping 7 to 10 hours.
- 4 Keep breakfast interesting. Try a variety of breakfast ideas with your family.
- 5 Eat a simple breakfast on busy days. Try something new when you have time.

### What can you do?

- Eat breakfast with my children.
- Make mini omelets, pancakes, muffins or potatoes.
- Prepare a breakfast food using whole wheat tortillas.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

take a  
small  
step...to a  
healthy  
family





## School Readiness ... Operations/Site/ Facilities ...Perspectives

The areas of Site/ Operations and Facilities support school readiness at the sites by ensuring that they are all licensed by the Office of Child and Family Services. This assures that the program is following state standards and regulations along with Head Start Performance Standards. This very important area aids in school readiness in a variety of ways:

- There are Site Coordinators at each site to support the needs of the facilities.
- There is a Facilities Coordinator on staff to monitor the sites, ensuring that they are in order both indoors and out and they are inviting to the families and the community.
- Appropriate staff is hired to interact suitably with the children and families.
- There are Floaters at the larger sites to support the teaching teams if there is a need to meet with a parent to obtain their input on their child's progress.
- The sites are cleaned daily to maintain a healthy environment and assist in reducing illnesses of children and adults.
- There are security locks/ key pads at all site doors to ensure everyone's safety.
- Parents/Volunteers are always welcomed at the sites.

High functioning, well maintained facilities in Genesee and Orleans Counties allow Head Start staff to give their full attention to your children as they prepare them for their next school experience.

Pat McCall-Small- Operations Manager & Albion/Kendall Site Coordinator

Cheryl Way - Batavia Site Coordinator.

Christina Robertson - Medina Site Coordinator

Julie McAdoo - Facilities Coordinator

## ***A Parent's Part . . . What you can do***

By

*Carol Berray, Human Resources/Administrative Services Manager*



There are many ways you can support your child in his/her Head Start journey toward Kindergarten. Being a part of that journey is the most important. It means so much to a child when his/her Mom, Dad, or other family member takes part in school activities.

The Federal government requires Head Start programs to demonstrate the community's support by documenting donations of time and/or goods for which the program would otherwise have to pay. This is known as our Non-Federal Share; more commonly referred to as InKind. It is mandatory that we reach a goal equivalent to roughly one quarter of our annual funding.

When a Head Start parent helps out by doing something for which we would normally pay a staff person, we can convert the donated time into dollars by applying an amount equal to what we pay entry level employees, plus fringe benefits, per hour.

Time donated by volunteers on Policy Council and Advisory Committees is counted at a higher rate because they are actively involved in the administration of the program. A person who volunteers in a professional capacity, such as a carpenter, painter, or a secretary can be counted at his/her professional rate if those skills are being used to benefit Head Start.

Of course, there are stringent requirements for documenting all donations. We have developed what we hope are "user friendly" forms to meet the regulations. Any staff member can help you find and use those forms. We even have a form to record time you spend at home helping Head Start. If you are unable to come on site or if your child is in our Home-Based option, ask his/her Teacher or Home Visitor about things you can do at home and how to document that time.

You can also donate goods to the program and tell us their current market value. Talk to your child's Teacher, your Family Advocate, or the Site Coordinator if you have items you would like to donate for use within the program. We will gladly give you a receipt for your donation if requested.

These are a few of the many things you can do to support our Head Start program. We need and appreciate your help. What's really great though is what you will get in return. Your child will be so proud of you and pleased that you are taking part in his/her school experience **and** you might just find yourself enjoying the experience like you were a child again!



# 10 Ways to Be a Better Dad



## 1. **Respect Your Children's Mother**

One of the best things a father can do for his children is to respect their mother. If you are married, keep your marriage strong and vital. If you're not married, it is still important to respect and support the mother of your children. A father and mother who respect each other, and let their children know it, provide a secure environment for them. When children see their parents respecting each other, they are more likely to feel that they are also accepted and respected.

## 2. **Spend Time With Your Children**

How a father spends his time tells his children what's important to him. If you always seem too busy for your children, they will feel neglected no matter what you say. Treasuring children often means sacrificing other things, but it is essential to spend time with your children. Kids grow up so quickly. Missed opportunities are forever lost.

## 3. **Earn the Right to Be Heard**

All too often the only time a father speaks to his children is when they have done something wrong. That's why so many children cringe when their mother says, "Your father wants to talk with you." Begin talking with your kids when they are very young so that difficult subjects will be easier to handle as they get older. Take time and listen to their ideas and problems.

## 4. **Discipline with Love**

All children need guidance and discipline, not as punishment, but to set reasonable limits. Remind your children of the consequences of their actions and provide meaningful rewards for desirable behavior. Fathers who discipline in a calm and fair manner show love for their children.

## 5. **Be a Role Model**

Fathers are role models to their kids whether they realize it or not. A girl who spends time with a loving father grows up knowing she deserves to be treated with respect by boys, and what to look for in a husband. Father can teach sons what is important in life by

demonstrating honesty, humility and responsibility. "All the world's a stage..." and a father plays one of the most vital roles.

6. **Be a Teacher**

Too many fathers think teaching is something others do. But a father who teaches his children about right and wrong, and encourages them to do their best, will see his children make good choices. Involved fathers use everyday examples to help their children learn the basic lessons of life.

7. **Eat Together as a Family**

Sharing a meal together (breakfast, lunch or dinner) can be an important part of healthy family life. In addition to providing some structure in a busy day, it gives kids the chance to talk about what they are doing and want to do. It is also a good time for fathers to listen and give advice. Most importantly, it is a time for families to be together each day.

8. **Read to Your Children**

In a world where television often dominates the lives of children, it is important that fathers make the effort to read to their children. Children learn best by doing and reading, as well as seeing and hearing. Begin reading to your children when they are very young. When they are older encourage them to read on their own. Instilling your children with a love for reading is one of the best ways to ensure they will have a lifetime of personal and career growth.

9. **Show Affection**

Children need the security that comes from knowing they are wanted, accepted and loved by their family. Parents, especially fathers, need to feel both comfortable and willing to hug their children. Showing affection everyday is the best way to let your children know that you love them.

10. **Realize that Father's Job is Never Done**

Even after children are grown and ready to leave home, they will still look to their fathers for wisdom and advice. Whether it's continued schooling, a new job or a wedding, fathers continue to play an essential part in the lives of their children as they grow and, perhaps marry and build their own families.



*Contributed by: Penny Miller, FCP Manager*

# RAISING A READER



A

well-scrubbed child in striped pajamas snuggles

against a soft shoulder and listens attentively: It's time for the bedtime story. This charming nightly ritual is deceptively simple, for its true significance runs deep and wide. The routine eases the child through a sometimes difficult transition into sleep, while the book itself can teach a dozen important lessons from the tolerance, sharing, and the importance of having a friend, to proper grammar and usage, or factual information about dinosaurs, bulldozers, or how to handle feelings about a new baby sister.

This intimate bedtime tradition is one of the most valuable gifts that you, as a loving parent, can share with your child. Research shows that children who are read to are more likely to become fluent readers themselves and often do better at school. Teaching a child to love books opens mind and eyes to all the vast possibilities of the world as well as to his own imagination. Families who go beyond reading aloud at bedtime to build reading customs into other aspects of their lives will strengthen both the bond between parent and child as well as the bond between the child and books. Don't forget *The Velveteen Rabbit* or *Goodnight Moon*, or whatever your child's favorite story might be, as part of a bedtime routine. But think about adding some of the reading rituals described below, which will kindle a lifetime love of books.

1. **START LIBRARY VISITS IN INFANCY.** Take out books weekly or biweekly. To build anticipation for a toddler, tape a “Library List” to the fridge, and whenever your child gets interested in a particular topic, such as insects or weather or mermaids, add that topic to the list. Attend story time or any other special reading hours at your local library.
2. **CELEBRATE YOUR FAVORITE AUTHORS.** On January 18<sup>th</sup> each year, we throw a “Pooh party” to honor the birthday of A.A.Milne, author of the popular Winnie the Pooh series of books. My 5-year-old son and I bake honey cookies and have a tea party on the floor with his stuffed Piglet and Pooh, and read a Pooh story aloud. On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the birthday of Dr. Seuss, we make green eggs and ham. June 10<sup>th</sup> is author Maurice Sendak’s birthday: Try dressing up like the “wild things” in Sendak’s popular book and act out the adventures.
3. **CREATE BOOK-GIVING RITUALS.** In one family I know, the kids find a new book under their pillows every Friday night. Another friend gives each of her three daughters a complete set of Laura Ingalls Wilder’s *Little House on the Prairie* series on her ninth birthday. We always bring along two or three new “trip books” like *Charlotte’s Web* when traveling by air or car. A trip is an ideal time to introduce chapter books to preschoolers. And bringing several favorite picture or lift-the-flap books to a restaurant makes it possible for a squirmy toddler to stay calmer longer.
4. **DRAMATIZE THE READING EXPERIENCE.** The Siegal family of Alexandria, Virginia, always reads by flashlight while on vacation, often snuggling together on the beach or sitting on the dock at night. Try reading a play aloud with family members “acting” different roles.
5. **CREATE AND CONSTRUCT BOOKS TOGETHER.** Danielle Nelson of Hopewell, New Jersey, researched major holidays on the Internet with her sons. Then they put together the information and images they had downloaded, jazzed up with crayons and glitter, to tell the story of each holiday. Or have your child dictate a story she makes up. Your job: Write it down on sheets of paper stapled together. Then read it back to her.
6. **READ ALOUD AT SOME MEALS.** I’m convinced this is why my son eats far more broccoli than the average 5-year-old: If he stops eating, I gently chide him, “You stop, I stop.” Because he can’t wait to hear what happens to Mr. Popper’s penguins, or the latest adventure of Harry Potter, he resumes eating. Meals are also a great time to teach conversation, so we limit reading aloud to occasional meals.
7. **EXPANDING READING MATERIAL.** Kids are naturally drawn to reading material that interests them due to its subject matter. Lots of kids have a greater incentive to read the phonics-base text, especially the names of characters they liked, on Pokemon cards. Encourage your budding baseball players to learn about their favorite superstars by buying baseball cards and reading them together. You may just end up spending the rest of the afternoon discussing team trivia. Give your grade-schooler a subscription to a magazine such as *chickaDEE* (ages 5 to 8) or *National Geographic World* (ages 8 to 13). The eagerly anticipated arrival of the magazine in the mail becomes a monthly event.

8. **MEMORIZE POEMS.** Kids love rhymes from the time they hear their first Mother Goose. As they grow, why not share some of the more sophisticated stuff? During Nation Poetry Month each April, read poems at snack time or bedtime. Or write a family poem about a recent trip together (you can always tell them its rap).
9. **START A BOOK GROUP WITH YOUR KIDS.** Preteen girls and mothers can form reading groups with other mothers and daughters. This could also work for fathers and sons or several families joining together. Read and discuss a child-oriented chapter book monthly after a potluck supper. Make sure the kids have an equal voice in book selection and, if possible, in running the meetings.
10. **ADD BOOKS TO HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS.** My family's favorite is a literary countdown calendar: Gift wrap every book with a Christmas theme ever given to your child, then tape numbers on the front from 1 to 24. Each night after dinner beginning on December 1<sup>st</sup>, let your children open one book and read it together. A friend of mine wraps half in red and half in green, so her daughters can take turns. At our house, number 24 is always *The Night Before Christmas*. A literary countdown also works well for marking the eight days of Hanukkah with eight books.
11. **VISIT BOOKSTORES REGULARLY.** The Voigt family of Clarence, New York, takes their two sons to a favorite bookstore once a month and each child gets to choose one book to buy or read in the store. Many bookstores with children's sections offer weekly readings, puppet shows, or visits from book characters like Arthur or The Cat in the Hat. Kids can meet writers and illustrators at book signings, or try a craft activity like making puppets and putting on a show.
12. **LIVE WHAT YOU READ.** Young children especially love to act out stories, if parents eagerly participate, both will become much more vital to kids. Read *Spot Bakes a Cake* to your 2 or 3-year-old and then bake together. Your child might absorb a lesson on kindness, sharing, or tolerating differences, from Rosemary Wells' *Yoko* or Kevin Henkes' *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* that she'd be less likely to accept from a parent-initiated discussion. After reading about a squirrel family that holds hands before eating a Thanksgiving feast in the hollow of a tree, my son asked why we couldn't hold hands around the table, too. Now we do.

## 'Bed-Night' Stories and other

### Reader-tested rituals

"**WE ENCOURAGE** our kids to read by having our 4-year-old son 'read' to his little sister. It's a nightly custom around our house: Our younger daughter doesn't want to go to sleep until our son reads her "bed-night story," as he calls it. They both love books and will listen to the same story over and over until they have it memorized." – *Dana Cope, Vernon, TX*

**“MY CHILDREN LOVE** being outdoors, so I encourage them to bring along books to read on picnics. We take turns reading aloud, or we all pile into our hammock with a story. I try to find books about insects, animals, and particular seasons, etc., that help them to connect the nature around them to the book. During the winter, we sit in front of our windows and read stories with snow themes; now I’m thrilled to get back outside with our spring books!” –*Mary Boardwine, Blue Ridge, VA*

**“MY 18-MONTH-OLD** son loves music, so whenever we can, we sing a song related to the pictures in his book. For example, if we’re reading *Goodnight Moon*, I’ll sing a song that has the word ‘moon’ in it. This holds his attention much longer than just reading the words on the page. He gets so excited that he flips through his books to find the pages we usually sing about.” – *Mary Nakasone, Seattle, WA*

**“BECAUSE THERE NEVER** seems to be enough time in the day, I decided to start reading to my 7-year-old son while he was in the bathtub. That way, he’s learning to love books and getting clean at the same time—not to mention the fact that he’s pretty much a captive audience when he’s in the tub. We take turns reading the pages, and he gets so involved in the stories that he stays in the tub until his skin starts to pucker.” –*Risa Doherty, East Hills, NY*

**“MY 8-YEAR-OLD** daughter loves to read outside. She’ll sit in a tree in our yard with a book—that way, she can read out of the reach of her 4-year-old brother.” –*Heather Clark, Upland, CA*

**“ALL FOUR OF MY KIDS** love to read whenever they have to wait somewhere, like the doctor’s office. I think they see it as “the thing to do,” since they watch all the adults there reading too.” –*Jacquelyn Howell, Greensboro, NC*

### **CLASSIC BOOKS BEST READ ALOUD!**

- **Babies & Toddlers:** *How a Baby Grows* by Nola Buck; *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle; *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats.
- **Ages 3 to 5:** *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* by Virginia Lee Burton; *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey; *Pete’s A Pizza* by William Steig; *Corduroy* by Don Freeman; *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate.
- **Ages 5 to 7:** *Mr. Popper’s Penguins* by Richard Atwater; *Ramona the Pest* by Beverly Cleary; *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney; *A Chair for My Mother* by Vera B. Williams.
- **Ages 7 to 9:** *The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes; *All-Of-a-Kind Farm* by Sydney Taylor; *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis.

**Ages 9 to 12:** *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine; *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor; *The Great Gilly Hopkins* by Katherine Paterson

*Contributed by:* Penny Miller, Family & Community Partnerships Manager